On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, February 13, 2015



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., right, walks with Ashton Carter, during a Senate Armed Service Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. The Senate on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015, easily confirmed Carter to be the next defense secretary, installing a new Pentagon chief as the United States increases military action against the Islamic State group.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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Carter wins Senate approval as defense secretary

DONNA CASSATA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Thursday confirmed President Barack Obama's choice to run the Pentagon, handing Ash Carter the unenviable task of steering the military as the United States confronts Islamic State militants, conflict in Ukraine and other worldwide threats.

The vote in the Republicancontrolled Senate was 93-5. Carter will replace Chuck Hagel, the former Republican senator who had a rough relationship with Obama's insular group of national security advisers.

Carter will be Obama's fourth defense secretary in six years, joining a line of succession that began with Robert Gates and included Leon Panetta and Hagel.

One of Carter's first tasks will be helping to win support for Obama's call to Congress for new authority to use force against the IS extremists. Republicans and Democrats have reacted negatively to Obama's draft proposal, criticizing both its limitations and vagueness.

In endorsing the 60-yearold Carter, Republicans exwould have better success lican who backed Carter, had more questions for should be approved imme-

ner circle than Hagel did. The Vietnam War veteran was often the outsider and he announced in November he was stepping down.

courage to speak truth to power — to Congress, yes, but also to his commander in chief."

While moving ahead on confirmed.

in jelling with Obama's in-said he "needs to have the Lynch, the U.S. attorney for diately. Her confirmation is the eastern district of New York who would become the nation's first black female attorney general if

expected after Congress' one-week recess.

Carter served as the Pentagon's second-ranking official from 2011 to 2013, spent two years previously as the department's technology and weapons-buying chief and was assistant secretary of defense for international security policy during Bill Clinton's administration. He prefers to be called Ash rather than his aiven name, Ashton.

The next Pentagon chief faces a long to-do list for a military looking at reduced budgets and crises world-

The Islamic State group has claimed large swaths of Iraq and Syria. Russianbacked separatists threaten Ukraine. The war is winding down in Afghanistan after more than a decade of fighting, but there is widespread debate about whether the residual U.S. force is sufficient to protect

At his confirmation hearing last week, McCain told Carter he hoped he would push back on any attempt by the White House to micromanage the Defense Department, or over-centralize U.S. foreign and defense policies.



Ashton Carter is greeted by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., right, during a Senate Armed Service Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. The Senate on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015, easily confirmed Carter to be the next defense secretary, installing a new Pentagon chief as the United States increases military action against the Islamic State group. At far left is Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., speaking with former Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, third from left.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

with the Pentagon has often been strained.

Senate Majority Leader nominee for attorney genpressed little hope that he Mitch McConnell, a Repub- eral. Lawmakers said they and said her nomination

The president's relationship Carter, Senate Republicans delayed a committee vote on Loretta Lynch, Obama's

Democrats complained that Lynch is being held to a double standard compared to other nominees

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'American Sniper' suspect says he took 'couple of souls'



Former Marine Cpl. Eddie Ray Routh, center, is led into court by his defense attorney J. Warren St. John, left, for the second day of his capital murder trial at the Erath County Donald R. Jones Justice Center in Stephenville, Texas, Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015. Routh, 27, of Lancaster, Texas, is charged with the 2013 deaths of former Navy SEAL Chris Kyle and his friend Chad Littlefield at a shooting range near Glen Rose, Texas.

(AP Photo/Tom Fox, Pool)

JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP)

— Police video played in court Thursday showed a former Marine telling officers investigating the deaths of two men including "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle that he had "taken a couple of souls" and had more to take.

The recording shows police trying to coax Eddie Ray Routh from a pickup in the hours after famed Navy SEAL Chris Kyle and his friend Chad Littlefield were found dead at a shooting range in February 2013.

Officers in the video are seen trying to talk Routh into surrendering as he makes comments such as, "Anarchy has been killing the world."

"He told us he'd taken a couple of souls and he had more souls to take," Lancaster police Lt. Michael Smith testified Thursday.

Defense attorneys have said Routh, 27, was insane when Kyle and Littlefield took him to a shooting range to provide support and camaraderie. Routh believed the men planned to kill him, his attorneys say. Routh faces life in prison without parole if convicted.

The case has drawn intense interest, largely because of Kyle's memoir, "American Sniper," about serving four tours in Iraq. The Oscar-nominated film based on the book has grossed nearly \$300 million. Officers testified that hours after the bodies were dis-

covered, Routh returned to his home, driving Kyle's pickup. Officers spoke with him as he sat in the pickup but he refused to leave the vehicle, eventually speeding off with police in pursuit. He stopped minutes later after one police vehicle rammed the pickup. At one point Routh, wanted his parents to come. "There's no trust anymore," the video showed Routh saying.

At different points, Routh made comments such as, "I didn't sleep a wink last night at all," "I don't know if I'm going insane," and "Is this about hell walking on earth right now?"

Authorities say Routh had earlier driven his sister's house, admitted to the killings and told his sister, "people were sucking his soul."

Routh's mother had asked Kyle, whose wartime exploits were depicted in his memoir, to help her son overcome personal troubles that on at least one occasion led him to be admitted to a psychiatric hospital. Routh had been a small arms technician who served in Iraq and was deployed to earthquake-ravaged Haiti before leaving the Marines in 2010.







Services, prayers for 3 fatally shot in North Carolina

EMERY P. DALESIO Associated Press

(AP) — More than 5,000 people gathered for funeral and prayer services Thursday for three young adults gunned down in what police call a longrunning dispute over parking spaces.

The crowd was so large it had to be moved from a mosque to a nearby university athletic field. The deaths of a newlywed Muslim couple and the wife's sister had quickly gained international atten-

tion, with some questioning whether the violence had RALEIGH, North Carolina some connection to their faith. Before the prayer service, relatives viewed the victims' bodies in a small building apart from one of Raleigh's largest mosques, where the families have long been members. The service then moved across the street to the fields owned by North Carolina State University, where two victims had graduated and one was a student.

Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23; his wife, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, 21; and her



A coffin is carried during the funeral service for three Muslim students fatally shot on Tuesday, near the Islamic Center of Raleigh in North Carolina, Feb. 12, 2015. The students, Deah Shaddy Barakat, his wife, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, and her sister, Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, were shot and killed allegedly by Craig Stephen Hicks, who lived in the same apartment complex as the victims, over what police said appeared to be "an ongoing neighbor dispute over parking."

(Travis Dove/The New York Times)

sister Razan Mohammad

olina-Chapel Hill campus. Barakat attended graduate school there; his wife had planned to join him.

 N.C. State police estimated a crowd of 5,500 grappled with questions about whether the violence had some connection to their Muslim faith. The father of the two slain women says hatred of Muslims might explain why the dispute erupted into death. Officials have said they're still investigating any possibilities the crime was hate-motivated.

"We are definitely certain that our daughters were targeted for their religion," the women's father, Mohammad Yousif Abu-Salha, told The Associated Press on Thursday. "This is a moment of truth. I have just viewed their bodies."

Charged with three counts of first-degree murder is Craig Stephen Hicks, 46, who has described himself as a "gun toting" atheist. Neighbors describe him as angry and confrontational.

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Abu-Salha, 19, were found dead Tuesday at the newlywed couple's home near the University of North Car- Those gathered Thursday

MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT

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FBI Director speaks about police view of blacks

WASHINGTON - The FBI director, James B. Comey, on Thursday delivered an unusually frank speech about the relationship between the police and black people, saying that officers who work in neighborhoods where blacks commit crimes at higher rates develop a cynicism that shades their attitudes about race. He said that officers - whether they are

white or black - who are

confronted with white men

on one side of the street and black men on the other

do not view them the same way. The officers develop a mental shortcut that "becomes almost irresistible and maybe even rational by some lights" because of the number of black suspects they have arrested. "We need to come to grips with the fact that this behavior complicates the relationship between police and the communities they serve," Comey said in the speech at Georgetown University.

While officers should be closely scrutinized, he said, they are "not the root cause of problems in our hardesthit neighborhoods," where blacks grow up "in environments lacking role models, adequate education and decent employment."

"They lack all sorts of opportunities that most of us take for granted," Comey

Comey's speech was unprecedented for an FBI director. Previous directors have limited their public comments about race to civil rights investigations, like those of murders committed by the Ku Klux Klan and how the bureau wiretapped the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.





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American retailers fret as products languish at ports

JUSTIN PRITCHARD **Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A prolonged labor crisis at West Coast seaports means the critical gateways for international trade have become more like parking lots for massive cargo ships that haul a vast selection of consumer goods from Asia and return there with U.S. exports.

The result: Containers of shovels, fencing, bathroom tiles, shoes, even parts to make summer camp footlockers are stuck at the docks or on ships anchored just offshore.

So are car parts, medical equipment and furniture. And U.S.-produced perishables, including meat and produce, are unable to be sent to Asian consumers.

Dockworkers and their employers have been negotiating a new contract since May, but in recent weeks talks have stalled, all but paralyzing 29 ports that handle about one-quarter of U.S. international trade. That's around \$1 trillion worth of cargo annually.

In the latest twist, companies that run marine terminals began locking out the majority of dockworkers Thursday. Employers won't call crews to operate the towering cranes that hoist cargo on and off ships. The partial lockout also is planned for Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

weekend for which em- months now.

ployers would have to pay dockworkers extra — and amid the increasingly damaging contract dispute, that is not going to hap-

Employers say dockworkers have intentionally slowed their work for months and won't be rewarded with higher wages. The dockworkers' union denies slowing work.

Companies still could hire smaller crews that would focus on moving containcloagina dockside yards onto trucks or trains in an effort to free space amid historically bad levels of congestion. Friday is a normal workday and employers plan to hire full

Meanwhile, a backup of ships that extends into the Pacific will only grow. On Thursday, 14 ships laden with containers of goods were anchored outside the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach; another 11 were awaiting berths outside the ports of Oakland or Seattle and Tacoma in Washington.

Among the importers with goods on the water is AICO Furniture, whose manufacturers are in Asia. In total, 70 containers are either stuck or on their way with no obvious way to get unloaded, said Martin Ploy, the company's president.

"When Mrs. Jones calls the furniture store and Each is either a holiday or says, 'I've been waiting for



A cargo ship docked at the Port of Los Angeles in California. A prolonged labor crisis at West Coast seaports means the critical gateways for international trade have become more like parking lots for massive cargo ships that haul a vast selection of consumer goods from Asia and return there with U.S. exports.

(Monica Almeida/The New York Times)





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US Financial Front:

Cheaper gas lowers retail sales; spending up elsewhere

C. S. RUGABER **AP Economics Writer** retail sales fell sharply last month as gas prices plummeted and auto sales But excluding slowed. those volatile categories, Americans stepped their spending a bit.

Retail sales dropped 0.8 percent in January, the Commerce Department said Thursday, following a 0.9 percent decline in December. The dollar value of gas station sales plunged 9.3 percent, the largest

drop in six years. Auto dealer sales also fell for the sec-**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. ond straight month after big gains in the fall.

Outside those categories, sales ticked up 0.2 percent after a flat reading in December.

The modest gain suggests Americans are still cautious about spending their windfall from lower gas prices, which economists expect will save the typical family \$750 this year. Cheaper gas and strong hiring have sent consumer confidence to seven-year highs, a sign spending should pick up soon.

Economists were disappointed by the weak showing, but most expect that consumers will eventually spend much of the extra cash left over from lower prices at the pump.

"With lower gasoline prices leaving households with more to spend ... the labor market on fire and consumer confidence back at its pre-recession level, we had hoped to see a much stronger performance," Paul Ashworth, an economist at



A shopper shops at Nordstrom Rack in Schaumburg, III. The Commerce Department released retail sales data for January on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015.

Capital Economics, said in competitive environment a note to clients.

Ashworth now expects growth in the first three months of this year will be just 2.5 percent to 3 percent, below his earlier estimate of 3 percent or above.

Still, "the conditions are in place for a period of very strong consumption growth," he said. "We still expect to see that strength come through in the retail sales data soon."

The National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail industry group, expects retail sales to be up 4.1 percent this year. That would be an uptick from the 3.5 percent increase last year percent. The figures exclude business from autos, gas stations and restaurants and include online sales.

and that, he believes, has made sales look less strong in January.

Scott Hoyt, an economist at Moody's Analytics, said that consumers are frequently slow to spend "found money," such as tax rebates or savings from lower gas prices. It can take six to 12 months for the spending to fully materialize, he said.

One reason is that shoppers may not be sure that the low prices will last. A survey of consumers by the Conference Board, released Wednesday, found that 75 percent of respondents expect gas prices will rise by the summer. That's difand mark the biggest per- ferent than many analysts centage gain since 2011 and government forecasts, when retail sales rose 5.1 which foresee gas below \$3 a gallon for the rest of this year.

The Conference Board's survey also found that one-Jack Kleinhenz, the NRF's third of respondents will chief economist, said that use their extra money from heavy discounting will con- cheap gas to reduce debt tinue this year given the oradd to savings.





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Marathon talks produce Ukraine peace deal; cease-fire Sunday

Y. KARMANAU
J. HEINTZ
Associated Press
MINSK, Belarus (AP) — The
peace deal reached Thurs-

peace deal reached Thursday for Ukraine, if it holds, would be a partial win for both Moscow and Kiev: Ukraine retains the separatist eastern regions and regains control of its border with Russia, while Russia holds strong leverage to keep Ukraine from ever becoming part of NATO.

But neither side came away from the marathon talks unscathed.

There's no sign Russia will soon escape the Western sanctions that have driven its economy down sharply, and Kiev's price for regaining control of the border with Russia is to grant significant new power to the east.

But the complicated cal-

culus of whether any side came out truly ahead can't be determined unless a single, straightforward term is fulfilled: halting the shooting and artillery salvos that have killed more than 5,300 people since April. That is supposed to happen on Sunday, at one minute after midnight.

A cease-fire called in September never fully took hold and fighting escalated sharply in the past month. Questions remain about whether either side possesses the will or discipline to ensure a truce this time.

The cease-fire is to be monitored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's observer mission in Ukraine.

But that "will probably go nowhere if there isn't a huge political will to beef up the OSCE, pull in many



Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures as he speaks to the media after the peace talks in Minsk, Belarus, Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday emerged from marathon Ukraine peace talks by announcing a new cease-fire deal, but questions remained whether Ukraine and the pro-Russian rebels have agreed on its terms.

(AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko, Pool)

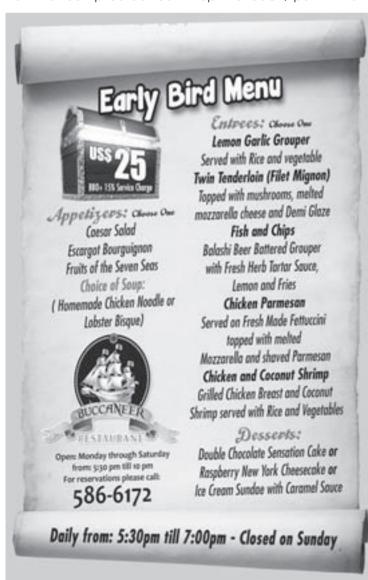
more monitors, give them clear support," said analyst Judy Dempsey, an associate of the Carnegie Europe think-tank.

The OSCE mission head, Er-

tugrul Apakan, said Thursday that he expected it would expand by the end of the month to about 500 observers, up from about 310 currently, the Interfax

news agency reported. Under the terms of the deal reached after 16 hours of talks between the presidents of Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France, the next step is to form a sizeable buffer zone between Ukrainian forces and Russiabacked rebels. Each side is to pull heavy weaponry back from the front line, creating a zone roughly 30-85 miles (50-140 kilometers) wide, depending on the weapon caliber.

Then come the knotty and volatile political questions. While Russian President Vladimir Putin told reporters the deal envisages special status for Ukraine's separatist regions, Ukraine's president, Petro Poroshenko, maintained there was no consensus on any sort of autonomy or federalization for eastern Ukraine.









Greece, eurozone make conciliatory move on debt talks

PAN PYLAS Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Greece and its creditors in the 19-country eurozone made a breakthrough Thursday, agreeing to launch technical discussions on Athens' demands to lighten the load of its bailout after weeks of acrimony.

Both sides made conciliatory moves at the summit of European Union leaders in Brussels, encouraging investors' hopes that a deal will be reached to avoid Greece's exit from the euro. Greece's main stock market closed around 5.5 percent higher.

"Europe always has been geared towards finding compromises," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel. "Compromises are agreed when the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Germany is ready for this." Merkel has faced a barrage of criticism in Greece for behistory. The Greek leader came to power last month on a promise to scrap the country's bailout in favor of



Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny, right, speaks with Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, left, and Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras during a group photo at an EU summit in Brussels on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015, EU leaders meet for a one-day summit on Thursday to discuss, among other issues, European banks and the situation in Greece. (AP Photo/Michel Euler)

ing the key cheerleader of the austerity policies that Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras wants to consign to

a new, lighter program. For his part, Tsipras also seemed in a mood for com"We will need to find a solution that respects the positions of all parties, so this agreement will have to be based on the core values of Europe, democracy and the vote of the people, but also on the necessity to respect the European rules," he said. Despite the tensions surrounding their meeting, the two leaders exchanged warm greetings, holding each other by their elbows, and chatting amiably, if briefly.

The improved mood appeared to yield a breakthrough. Following a meeting with Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the head of the eurogroup of finance ministers. Tsipras has agreed to allow representatives from his government to meet Friday with those from the European Commission, European Central Bank, International Monetary Fund.

Simone Boitelle, spokesperson to Dijsselbloem, said the purpose of the talks is to see if any common ground exists between Greece's current bailout program and the government's proposals. The findings will inform Monday's meeting of eurozone finance ministers, the last scheduled one before Greece's bailout program expires after Feb. 28.

Tsipras and his radical-left Syriza party blame the current policies of budget austerity for choking Greece's economy.

Despite a recent modest return to growth, the Greek economy is around 25 percent smaller than it was before the crisis and poverty and unemployment have swelled.

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France's most-wanted widow in interview with Islamic State

LORI HINNANT Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The Islamic group published what it described as an interview with the widow of the French gunman who attacked a kosher supermarket and a police officer in Paris last month, claiming for the first time that she was among extremist fighters.

text interviews in French and English, published Wednesday and Thursday, did not directly name Hayat Boumeddiene or show images of her, instead identifying her only as the wife of Amedy Coulibaly, or Umm Basur al-Muhajirah. She is considered key to the investigation into the attacks in Paris, which left 20 people dead including the gunmen, although she left France just beforehand.

The publication appeared to be the first confirmation from IS that she had joined the group in Syria, as was widely believed after a posthumous video emerged of Coulibaly, pledging allegiance to its leader.

In the stilted responses laced with references to the Quran, she called on women to be patient and make life easier for their men. She said Coulibaly himself would also have gone to Syria had it not "conflicted with his intent to carry out the operations in France." There was no way to confirm the circumstances of the interview, or even if the responses were ners.

Boumeddiene is believed to have traveled to Turkey and then crossed into Syria around the same time as the Jan. 7-9 attacks were unfolding in Paris. Coulibaly killed five people before he died in a raid by security forces.

Brazil: Samba group funding sparks Carnival controversy



Performers from the Beija-Flor samba school parade on a float during carnival celebrations at the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Rio's O Globo newspaper, one of Brazil's biggest, reported that the samba group received substantial funding from Equatorial Guinea's President Teodoro Obiang Nguema, one of Africa's most notorious dictators, an allegation that has sparked controversy on the eve of Brazil's Carnival (AP Photo/Felipe Dana) celebrations.

JENNY BARCHFIELD **Associated Press** RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) - Al-

legations that a Rio de Janeiro samba group received funding from one of Africa's most criticized governments have sparked controversy on the eve of Brazil's Carnival celebrations.

Rio's O Globo newspaper, one of Brazil's biggest, reported this week that the Beija-Flor group, a 12-time champion of the city's flamboyant parade competition, received \$3.5 million from Equatorial Guinea. The small, oil-rich nation in West Africa is governed by the continent's longestruling leader, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who seized power in a 1979 coup.

Colombia rebels vow to stop recruiting youths under 17

A. RODRIGUEZ **Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — Colombia's main rebel group announced Thursday it will no longer recruit guerrillas younger than 17 years old, addressing a practice widely condemned by human rights groups.

Rebel spokesman Ivan Marquez made the state- down its attacks even bement in Havana at the end of another round of peace talks between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the government.

Marquez said that until now, the rebels have recruited children as young

as 15. He also accused the government of systematically training minors to infiltrate rebel ranks.

President Juan Manuel Santos welcomed the move as a step in the right direction after calling on the FARC to demonstrate its commitment to the 2-year-old peace process by winding fore a final deal is reached. But he said the age limit should be higher and he also questioned why the FARC won't release minors already within its ranks.

It's unclear how many children from mostly poor farming families have

The report didn't cite any sources, but has reignited a long-running debate about the funding for the samba groups, many accused of having ties to Rio's underworld.

Natalia Louise, a spokeswoman for Beija-Flor, denied in an emailed response on Thursday that the school had received money from Equatorial Guinea.

But in an earlier email Louise acknowledged that the group received "cultural

and artistic support" from the African nation. Equatorial Guinea is the theme of the group's parade this year, and its theme song includes refrains such as "Brazil sings, Guinea dances," according to lyrics on the group's website.

Rio's samba groups, which compete for the title of year's best in over-the-top parades including giant floats and thousands of feather-clad dancers, have long been dogged by allegations of financial irregularities. Several court cases over decades have linked top samba group officials to illegal lottery rackets known as "jogo do bicho," or "animal game."

Some have come under fire in the past for accepting funding from foreign governments. The government of late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez helped pay for a South Americanthemed 2006 parade by the Vila Isabel group.

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Caribbean's different gender gap: women rise, men stagnate

DAVID McFADDEN Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) When the young woman

was preparing to open a business in Jamaica selling pipes, vaporizers and other smoking paraphernalia, some acquaintances suggested she would have difficulty succeeding in a niche trade dominated by men.

Now, about a year-anda-half after its launch at a hotel complex in Jamaica's capital, Ravn Rae's smoking supplies store is growing and she's proving doubters wrong in a Caribbean country where women have made such big advances in professions once dominated by men that a new U.N. study says it has the world's highest proportion of female bosses.

"Women are the ones who are the main breadwinners. We push harder to earn," says Rae at her smoke shop, which she hopes to soon expand into a medical marijuana dispensary if lawmakers pass a decriminalization bill and allow a regulated cannabis industry. For now, she manages one saleswoman.

According to data analyzed by the International Labor Organization, nearly including those who work their own businesses. That's the globe's highest perof developed countries. and St. Lucia, at 52 percent, backward.

to be the boss, according to the ILO's global list. The highest ranking first world nation is the United States, with almost 43 percent, and the lowest is Japan, at

are the only other nations. The Caribbean and Latin, have serious worries about, males is typically devalued, in the world where women America have seen such stagnating men, who have are more likely than men big improvements in the economic and social status of women that gender gaps in education, labor force participation, access to health systems and political engagement "have

lower levels of academic achievement and are at increased risk of falling into criminality, trends that undermine the gains by females.

Wayne Campbell, a Jamai-



Student teacher Shane Sinclair, right, helps veteran teacher Lillia Lewin-Robinson teach thirdgrade boys a math lesson using a soccer ball at a co-ed primary school experimenting with single-sex classrooms in a poor community in Kingston, Jamaica. Educators in Jamaica say the research they have conducted has shown that boys in single-sex schools do better than those in co-educational ones.

(AP Photo/David McFadden)

11 percent.

Caribbean and parts of 60 percent of managers Latin America make up World Bank study that anagreater extent than in the to improvements in the levcentage and way ahead also because men have rearing responsibilities.

narrowed, closed and Overall, women in the sometimes even reversed direction," according to a empowerment in the reel of female education, but gle household and child-

can high school teacher who blogs about the problem of male underachievement, believes toxic notions in Jamaica are women, the managerial ranks to a lyzed women's economic about masculinity permeate entire communities, for large companies and developed world. Experts gion. More women are re-reinforced by a popular tional secondary schools those, like Rae, who own say the gain is due in part ceiving advanced degrees music culture that often into single-sex institutions even as a number also jug- celebrates law-breaking. Boys who display school mance. But the pilot prosmarts are often ridiculed gram was scrapped after failed to keep pace and But while government of- as effeminate by peers and Colombia, at 53 percent, have in some cases gone ficials and educators cel- even adults in areas where not improve in single-sex ebrate that fact they also academic excellence by classrooms.

he says.

"It's almost as if manhood and masculinity have been hijacked by a thug culture far removed from education," he said.

From the southern country of Trinidad & Tobago to the northern archipelago of the Bahamas, Caribbean education ministries have focused attention for years trying to solve the worrying reality of male underachievement and the social problems it leaves in its wake. Grace McLean, Jamaica's chief education officer, says "it is evident that boys' underachievement in the education system is weighing heavily on national socio-economic development."

Regional educators say the scale of academic underachievement by boys, a trend which is mirrored in other parts of the world including the U.S., points to the need for systemic changes in the way that lessons are planned and delivered. Many schools in the Caribbean have experimented with approaches large and small to better engage boys, but results have typically been mixed when they haven't been considered outright failures. In 2010, Trinidad and Tobago transformed about a fifth of its co-educato address underperforofficials found students did



Exciting New Divi Vacation Club Makes Its Debut



nations, feature a range

known as Divi Club Desti- tels, to intimate beachside settings, to top dive resorts. of vacation experiences, In addition to the Divi from modern high-rise ho- Club Destinations, mem-



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Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort and Divi Dutch Village Beach Resort on Aruba; Divi Southwinds Beach

ba Phoenix Beach Resort, Resort on Barbados; Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino on Bonaire and Divi Little Bay Beach Resort on St. Maarten. These resorts,







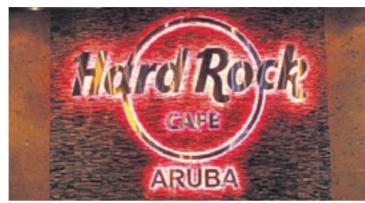
bers can vacation in more than 80 countries through the Divi Exchange Network, which partners with Interval International® to access hundreds of resorts around the world. "The Divi Vacation Club offers more travel flexibility than traditional vacation ownership, allowing club members to travel where they want, when they want and how they want, based on the amount of points they wish to spend," says Marco Galaverna, president of Divi Management Group. "With Pure Points, the currency used to book vacations, our members only spend the points they need depending on the season, resort, accommodation size and length of stay." The Divi Vacation Club also helps members save money on their travel, insuring that their yearly vacation costs will remain stable and affordable for years to come. The new club's website (www.divivacationclub. com) also premiered in January, outlining club program details as well as providing access for current members to explore destinations, make reservations, research points balances and make payments. For more information on Divi Vacation Club membership, visit www.divivacationclub.com or call a sales center on Aruba: 1-800-257-4943/1-919-883-4699 or on St. Maarten: 1-877-349-0560.





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Restured descripted and glass of appetite and glass of appetite and appetit

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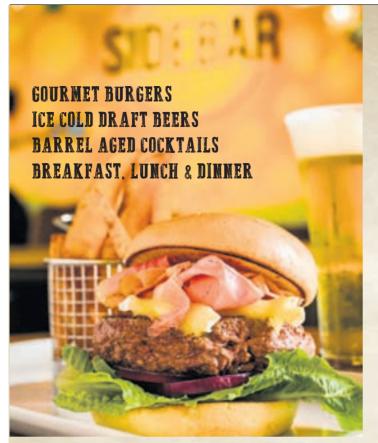
As the tunes call out to you and persuade you in to experience the perfect energized laid back evening as only Hard Rock Cafe Aruba can show you that we know how to rock 'n' roll all night and party every day. You wanted the best and we got the best - the best ambiance with your choice of either indoor seating or breezy comfort under the canopy in the warm glow of neon signs. Hard Rock Cafe brings back that lovin' feeling, the feeling of

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Sidebar is the newest restaurant on Aruba, and oh boy, it is a beauty! Unique in a trendy, sassy and sexy way, it is ready to welcome all of you.



Common ground and denominating factor of the guests includes the enjoyment of life, in particular the good things, such as great bistro food, wonderful drinks and a relaxed, happy atmosphere. Sidebar is the name of a stylish, hip restaurant on the side of the Renaissance Marketplace; just hop inside, sit at the bar or on the amazing porch and enjoy – the party at Sidebar starts at 8 am and goes on until midnight.

At Sidebar you can sit in a booth, on a lounge chair, on a bar stool or stand at a cocktail table. Side Bar is all about options, so go and check it out on the far end corner of the Renaissance Marketplace.

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CASINO AND SHOPS





Carmen & Mandy Are Crazy About Tango Argentine Grill

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PALM BEACH - They call it `the most beautiful island on earth' and they are enjoying every minute of their holiday: Carmen and Mandy, friends and co-workers from Holland. The two are from Haarlem, working at an Ikea branch. As they are such good friends, they decided to book a 2-week holiday together and they chose Aruba. What a good move! Before long they discovered that they are crazy about Aruba's

beaches during the day; in the evenings they were looking for exceptional restaurants. And so they happened to walk past the popular Arawak Garden one evening: Tango Argentine Grill's menu was so



inviting, that they decided to check it out. After a dinner of traditional loin ribs, served with steamed vegetables and oven-roasted Holland will always be most potatoes plus a side order of fries with mayonnaise (of course) and a good glass of wine, Carmen and Mandy decided that they had come home for real. They started chatting to the staffers, sipping their cappuccinos and Heineken beers and before everyone knew

it, they were fast friends, vowing to come back soon to pick up where they left. These gorgeous girls from welcome at Tango, which is located across from the Occidental Resort on the hi-rise strip.

At Arawak Garden you will find five great restaurants, nightly live music, small shops and a piano bar. Hope to see you soon, Carmen and Mandy!



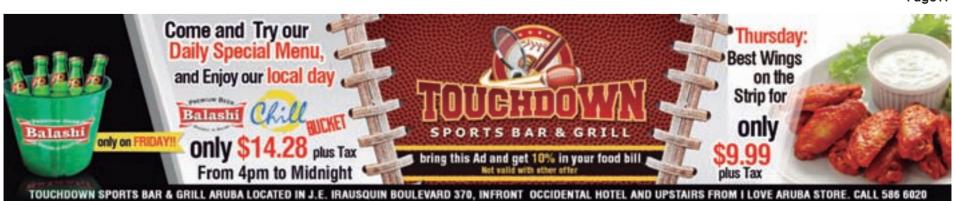
SPORTS A17 FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2015

SPURIS SECTIONAL TODAY



Tiger Woods watches his tee shot head far to the right on the 11th hole of the north course at Torrey Pines during the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, in San Diego.

Associated Press









Lunch & Dinner

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Anna Fenninger captures giant slalom title at worlds

PAT GRAHAM AP Sports Writer

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. (AP)

— The Austrian skier with the cheetah pattern on the side of her helmet is fast even when she almost falls.

Anna Fenninger recovered from a near-wipeout late in her run to win the women's giant slalom title at the world championships Thursday, while American teenager Mikaela Shiffrin finished eighth.

Leading after the opening run, Fenninger posted a combined time of 2 minutes, 19.16 seconds to beat Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany by 1.40 seconds. Sweden's Jessica Lindell-Vikarby was third.

Fenninger was cruising along when her ski tips almost crossed, lurching her forward. She somehow regained her balance, stayed on course and won her second race at worlds. Fenninger also captured



Austria's Anna Fenninger reacts to her first-place finish in the women's giant slalom competition at the alpine skiing world championships, Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015, in Beaver Creek, Colo.

Associated Press

the super-G in the opening event

"I made a big mistake, and I thought, 'I can't stay in the course,'" Fenninger said. "I was fighting and going back into the course. When I came into the finish line, I can't believe I won. Amazing."

Just that kind of world championships for Fen-

going right. She also has a silver medal in the downhill. Slovenia's Tina Maze wound up fifth, ending her quest to earn a medal in every event at Beaver Creek worlds. She's earned two golds and a silver so far, with the women's slalom Saturday.

Exhaustion finally caught up to Maze as she leaned over on her ski poles after finishing her run.

"My energy was not enough to be on the podium. I just couldn't bring out more," Maze said.

After a shaky opening run, Lindsey Vonn held nothing back on her second pass in her final event in front of a hometown crowd. She even had the lead for a little bit, before slipping to 14th, 3.22 seconds behind Fenninger.

"I really risked everything," said Vonn, who had boy-friend Tiger Woods on the sideline for her race. "I let it go. I'm really happy with my run.

"It's nice to end these championships on a positive note. I tried my best at these whole championships — not every run worked out."

Vonn earned one medal — bronze in the super-G — at this version of worlds.

Meanwhile, Shiffrin had a solid showing in her first individual event of these championships. Her only regret? She wishes she would've attacked the

ninger, where everything is course more in her first run. going right. She also has a She had too big of deficit silver medal in the downhill. to make up.

That said, Shiffrin insisted there wasn't any added pressure or nerves as she competed in her backyard.

"It's my job to perform," said Shiffrin, who's from nearby Eagle-Vail.

There were several big names that didn't finish the first run, including Eva-Maria Brem of Austria and Lara Gut of Switzerland.

"That's GS," Gut said. "You have to risk everything." And with that, Gut's world

championships were complete. She departs with a bronze medal in the downhill.

"Coming here, every-body knew on this slope I could be really fast. I was fast sometime, but not enough," Gut said. "I think I could've done more, but in the end, you need luck. You need everything."

Switzerland's Dominique Gisin made a quick recovery after cracking the tibia bone in her right knee last month and finished 19th in the giant slalom.

"I wish I could've skied a little more free in my mind, but at the end, I'm very, very thankful to my knees that they were so good (to me)," said Gisin, who tied with Maze for the Olympic downhill gold at the 2014 Sochi Games. "There will be other races this season. ... I hope to finally reach the top again."







Woods says he'll return when his game is ready

DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer PEBBLE BEACH, California (AP) — Tiger Woods said Wednesday his game is "not acceptable" to compete in tournaments

and he will return when he

thinks it is.

Woods said

Hopeful of having injuries behind him, Woods made a horrific start to the new year. He shot a career-high 82 in the second round of the Phoenix Open to miss the cut by 12 shots. And then he withdrew after 11 holes of ordinary golf at Torrey Pines because of tightness in his back from a fog delay.

on his website the last two weeks have been disappointing, especially at Torrey Pines, where he is an eight-time winner. He said he never wants to withdraw, but recent injuries have allowed that to happen too often.

Woods said his latest injury was not related to the back surgery he had last spring, and that he is feeling better every day with physical therapy.

"Right now, I need a lot of work on my game, and to still spend time with the people that are important to me," Woods said. "My play, and scores, are not acceptable for tournament golf. Like I've said, I enter a tournament of his career. to compete at the highest His chipping was bad at ready, I'll be back."

Woods is not playing December, when he tied Pebble Beach or Riviera, for last. His chipping looked and said he would practice even worse at the Phoenix next week at his home and Open, a collection of shots at The Medalist "getting that he either flubbed short ready for the rest of the orbladed across the green.

He said he wants to play the Honda Classic, which starts Feb. 26, but he won't be there unless his game is tournament ready.

"That's not fair to anyone," Woods said. "I do, however, expect to be playing again very soon."

Ernie Els, who has known Woods longer than any other active PGA Tour player, heard about his woes while playing in Dubai and later saw highlights.

"As competitive as we are, we don't want to see anyone suffer like that," said Els, who has finished second to Woods more than any other player. "We've got to do our stuff in public. I don't care if you're Tiger Woods, Ernie Els or whoever. If you have some error in your game, you get exposed."

Woods, the winner of 79 PGA Tour events and 14 majors, has never looked this bad on the golf course. He had back surgery to relieve a pinched nerve a week before the Masters and missed three months (including the first two majors), and then he took four months off at the end of last year to regain strength and get his back fully healed.

He also hired a new swing consultant and embarked on the fifth swing change

level, and when I think I'm the 18-man Hero World Challenge at Isleworth in

Woods is at No. 62 in the world, his worst ranking since before he won his first PGA Tour event in 1996. He is not eligible for the World Golf Championship at Doral.

"I am committed to getting back to the pinnacle of my game," Wood said.



Tiger Woods tees off on the second hole during the pro-am at the Farmer Insurance Open golf tournament at Torrey Pines, Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015, in San Diego.

Associated Press

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Celtics rally, beat Hawks 89-88 on Turner's buzzer-beater

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — BOSTON
(AP) — Evan Turner made

Boston Celtics' Evan Turner (11) shoots the gamewinning basket over Atlanta Hawks' DeMarre Carroll (5) with 0.2 seconds left on the clock in the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015, in Boston.

Associated Press

a running scoop shot with 0.2 seconds left to give Boston its only lead of the game, and the Celtics sent the Atlanta Hawks to just their third loss of the calendar year, 89-88 on Wednesday night.

Jared Sullinger had 17 points and 15 rebounds for the Celtics, who have won four of five but still remain out of playoff position. Turner had 12 points, nine assists and seven rebounds.

Al Horford scored 22 points and added 12 rebounds for the Hawks, who followed a 19-game winning streak by losing four of their last seven.

WARRIORS 94, TIMBER-WOLVES 91

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Andre Iguodala and Leandro Barbosa led a dominant effort from the Golden State Warriors' reserves and Klay Thompson hit a big 3-pointer down the stretch to close out a long road trip with a victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Iguodala scored just eight points on 4-for-4 shooting and Barbosa had 10 points, but they spearheaded an energized second unit that picked up the slack for their sluggish starters. Stephen Curry had 25 points on 9-for-23 shooting for Golden State (42-9), which goes into the All-Star break with the best record in the NBA.

Kevin Martin scored 21 points and Ricky Rubio had 18 points, nine rebounds and five assists for the Timberwolves (11-42), who rallied from a 14-point deficit in the fourth quarter to tie the game.

MAGIC 89, KNICKS 83

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Nik Vucevic had 28 points and 18 rebounds, and the Orlando Magic held off the New York Knicks.

Victor Oladipo added 19 points and Willie Green 13 off the bench. It helped offset a third-quarter injury to starting forward Channing Frye, who left with a dislocated left index finger.

The victory stopped a twogame skid by the Magic. It also improved interim coach James Borrego's record to 2-2 since taking over for Jacque Vaughn, who was fired last week.

Jason Smith led the Knicks with 25 points. The Knicks played without forward Carmelo Anthony, who sat out their final game before the All-Star break with of a sore left knee.

RAPTORS 95, WIZARDS 93

TORONTO (AP) — DeMar DeRozan hit a tiebreaking jump shot with 12 seconds left and the Toronto Raptors headed into the All-Star break on a winning note, beating the Washington Wizards.

Lou Williams scored 27 points, DeRozan had 23 and Kyle Lowry 13 for the Raptors, who have won seven of the past eight meetings with the Wizards, including all three this season.

John Wall scored 21 points, Drew Gooden had 10 points and 12 rebounds and Paul Pierce scored 17 for the Wizards, whose two-game winning streak was snapped. The loss was Washington's sixth in the past eight games.

SPURS 104, PISTONS 87

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)

— Danny Green scored
19 points and Tony Parker
added 17, and the San Antonio Spurs easily brushed
aside the Detroit Pistons.





NHL Capsules

Daniel Sedin's OT goal sinks Blackhawks

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — CHICA-GO (AP) — Daniel Sedin scored his second goal at 1:20 of overtime, and the Vancouver Canucks recovered after blowing a late two-goal lead, beating the Chicago Blackhawks 5-4 on Wednesday

Henrik Sedin made a great pass to his brother in the middle of the ice, and Daniel pushed it into the open left side of the net for his 13th of the season. He also scored in the third period to give Vancouver a 4-2 lead with 4:37 remaining.

Patrick Kane had a goal and two assists for Chicago, which looked listless for much of the night, and then closed with a flourish. Marian Hossa scored two goals for the third consecutive game.

Penguins 4, Red Wings 1

Comeau scored and picked up an assist in his return from an upper body injury. Comeau missed nearly two months after getting hurt in an overtime loss to Florida on Dec. 22. He wasted little time getting back to work, assisting on Patric Hornqvist's score just 1:51 into the game and firing a one-timer past Petr Mrazek later in the first.

David Perron and Nick Spaling also scored for the Pittsburgh. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 23 shots to earn his fourth win in his last five starts.

Stephen Weiss picked up his seventh goal for the Red Wings, but Detroit was never in it. Mrazek made 13 saves on just 17 shots and was pulled after the second period.

Capitals 5, Sharks 4, OT SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) -Joel Ward scored with 2:18 **PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Blake remaining in overtime.

Jay Beagle scored twice and John Carlson and Troy Brouwer also scored for the Capitals, who have won four of their last five.

Brent Burns scored twice, Logan Couture and Joe Thornton also got goals as the Sharks lost their third straight and fifth in six games. Burns scored his goals within 22 seconds of the second period.

Braden Holtby, with a 0.88 GAA over his last five, saved 26 of 30 shots for Washington. Antti Niemi stopped 28 of 33 shots.



Pittsburgh Penguins' Blake Comeau celebrates after scoring on Detroit Red Wings goalie Petr Mrazek during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015, in Pittsburgh.

Andy Murray advances to quarters in Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Top-seeded Andy Murray advanced to the quarterfinals of the World Tennis Tournament with a 6-3, 7-5 win over Vasek Pospisil of Canada on Thursday.

The Australian Open runner-up, who faces eighthseeded Gilles Simon of France in the next round, fought back from a break of serve in the second set and won the last four games.

"I moved well, and I felt like when I really needed to, I was able to improve my level and step my game up a bit," Murray said. "I found a little bit of extra intensity in the important moments."

None more so than when Pospisil served for the second set at 5-4.

"He was in a great position. But we had a 30-shot



Britain's Andy Murray returns the ball to Nicolas Mahut of France during their first round match of the 42nd ABN AMRO world tennis tournament at Ahoy Arena in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015. **Associated Press**

rally on set point. It was a very physical rally, I was making him do more of the running," said Murray, the 2009 Rotterdam champ.



2 glasses of red wine + a Valentines day gift



James Shields and Padres finalize \$75M, 4-year deal

BERNIE WILSON AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — All-Star pitcher James Shields has signed a \$75 million, fouryear contract with San Diego, putting the finishing touch on the Padres' ambitious roster overhaul.

"We're going to try to bring a championship to San Diego," Shields said during his introductory news conference. "I believe, if I'm not

mistaken, it would be the first one ever in San Diego. I'm up for that challenge." The 33-year-old Shields has pitched in two World Series, with Tampa Bay in 2008 and Kansas City last year. So a World Series championship would be a first for him, too.

A.J. Preller, the first-year general manager, signaled the Padres' elevated ambitions with the December



James Shields sports a big smile as he talks about joining thew San Diego Padres after signing a four year contract with the team Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015, in San Diego. General manager A.J. Preller, left, listens.

Associated Press







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trades for sluggers Matt Kemp, Justin Upton and Wil Myers, as well as Derek Norris and Will Middlebrooks. Shields, who has pitched at least 200 innings in each of the last eight seasons, projects to lead a rotation that also includes Tyson Ross, Andrew Cashner and Ian Kennedy. Several players will compete for the No. 5 spot during spring training. "At the beginning of the offseason I'm watching the moves A.J.'s making. It's

incredible, the change," Shields said. "The teams that I was looking at, I knew

that they were going to win and win now. That's what I loved about San Diego and what the ownership's doing right now is they have that win-now mentality. Not only now, but in the next four, five years. I'm looking forward to doing my part."

An All-Star with Tampa Bay in 2011, Shields is 114-90 with a 3.72 ERA in nine seasons. Shields was 14-8 with a 3.21 ERA last season. He lost both of his World Series starts against San Francisco, outdueled each time by series MVP Madison

Bumgarner.

Shields declined a \$15.3 million qualifying offer from the Royals.

Shields will make \$10 million this season and \$21 million each year from 2016-18. The Padres hold a \$16 million option for 2019, or a \$2 million buyout.

The \$75 million for Shields matches the \$75 million the Padres owe Kemp during the next five years as the biggest outlay to one player in team history. The Dodgers will pay \$32 million of the remaining \$107 million on Kemp's contract.

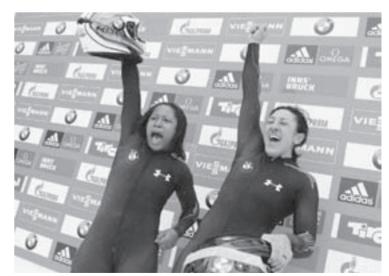
Lauryn Williams retires from U.S. bobsled team

LAKE PLACID, New York (AP) — U.S. bobsledder Lauryn Williams, one of only five people to medal in different sports at the Summer and Winter Olympics, is retiring.

Williams says she's exhausted as an athlete after competing professionally for the last decade.

"We hate to lose her, but we respect her decision to move on and wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life," USA Bobsled & Skeleton chief executive officer Darrin Steele said on Thursday.

Williams deliberated retirement following her silvermedal performance at the Sochi Games in the women's event with driver Elana Meyers Taylor, but opted



United States' winners Elana Meyers Taylor and Lauryn Williams, from right, celebrate in the leader box after the Bob World Cup in Igls, near Innsbruck, on Friday, Feb. 6, 2015.

Associated Press

2014-2015 season.

Williams returned in dominant fashion, winning the national push champion-

to return for a portion of the ship title, and helped the U.S. earn two World Cup medals in three of the four competitions she competADULTS US\$45 ONLY FRIDAY CHILDREN (4-12) US\$25.

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Softbank to add learning technology to empathetic robot

YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese mobile carrier Softbank said Tuesday it will incorporate artificial intelligence technology from IBM into its empathetic robot Pepper that will be available to Japanese consumers around midyear.

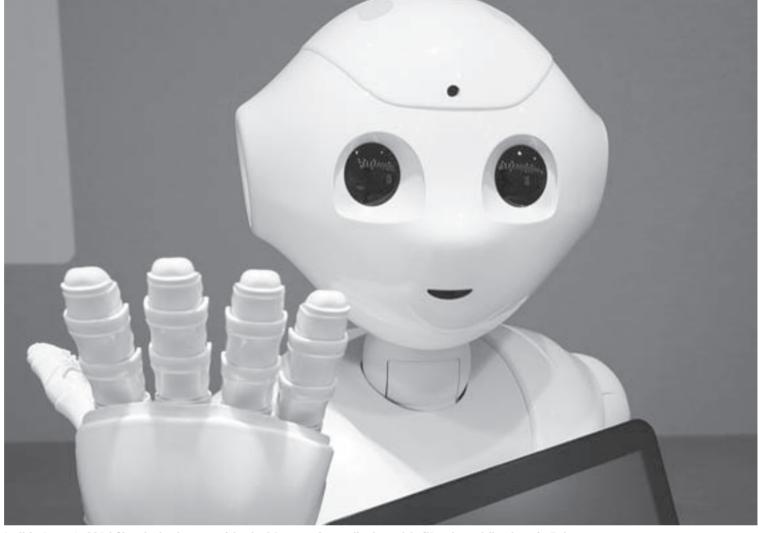
The AI engine "Watson" is already used in health care, travel and insurance services in English, but an adaptation was needed to make it work and think in Japanese, said Steve Gold, Vice President, IBM Watson Group.

Unlike other cognitive technology that responds rather mechanically, Watson can learn over time like a human brain, and understands the concept of probability, which makes it sophisticated and more human-like for applications, according to IBM.

"It depends on the context of the conversation as to what the right answer would be," as opposed to how a computer would generally try to answer correctly, Gold told The Associated Press. "The world is seldom absolute." Software developers who have made reservations for Pepper robots will get them sometime this month for 198,000 yen (\$1,700), according to Softbank Chief Executive Masayoshi Son.

Consumers won't be able to get Pepper until between June and August, he said. Details of the sales plan were undecided, Son said. No decision has been made on overseas sales.

Softbank had said earlier that sales to Japanese consumers would begin this month as well. He did not elaborate on the rea-



In this June 6, 2014 file photo, humanoid robot Pepper is on display at SoftBank mobile shop in Tokyo.

Associated Press

son for the delay, but he said giving it first to the developers will mean more fun applications will be available when consumers get the robot, implying it wasn't quite ready as a product.

Pepper has a stunned face a bit like C3PO in "Star Wars" and moves around on wheels. In early demonstrations it was a bit mechanical in its responses. Gold said Watson will change that and make the robot a smarter, more charming companion.

For example, two plus two is four in arithmetic but in another context it could refer to a car design, Gold said. Watson is designed to figure out context and know which answer is more likely.

A call center using Wat-

son will get the caller to the right solution more quickly and make for a less frustrating consumer experience, he said.

But the complexity of the Japanese language, including thousands of characters with various meanings and several phonetic options, challenge even Watson, Gold said.

Son said Pepper will not result in big profits immediately, but it points to a new lifestyle, promising to turn into a real business in perhaps 30 years.

Besides Pepper, Softbank will use Watson inside the company, resell it in Japan to businesses such as call centers and work with other companies to develop new applications, according to IBM.

Softbank, the first carrier to

sell the iPhone in Japan, has widespread global investments including Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba, which listed in New York last year. Softbank is also aggressively investing in India.





Expedia buying rival Orbitz for about \$1.33 billion

MICHELLE CHAPMAN **AP Business Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Expedia is buying rival online travel site Orbitz for approximately \$1.33 billion, adding to the stable of brands it has snapped up recently in order to extend its reach and keep pace in the fiercely competitive travel-booking industry.

Expedia's acquisition of Or-

in the past month as the industry continues to consolidate. Expedia announced the \$280 million acquisition of another rival, Travelocity, in late January. It also follows the company's July announcement that it was buying Wotif.com for \$658 million.

By bringing Orbitz into the fold, Expedia gains access

bitz is its second major deal to the Orbitz namesake brand, as well as brands like CheapTickets and HotelClub. Expedia's portfolio already consists of nearly a dozen brands such as Hotels.com and Hotwire.

> Speculation swirled last month that Orbitz may be bought, when a media report said that the company was considering selling itself. An Orbitz spokesman

declined to comment at the time.

Expedia, based in Bellevue, Washington, said Thursday that it will pay \$12 per share, a 25 percent premium to Orbitz' closing price of \$9.62 Wednesday.

Shares of Orbitz Worldwide Inc., based in Chicago, soared \$2.05, or 21.3 percent, to \$11.67 in morning trading. Expedia's stock surged \$9.23, or 11.8 percent, to \$87.45.

Expedia CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said during a conference call that Orbitz was an attractive acquisition option in part because of its highly recognized brands and loyal customers. Expedia also likes Orbitz' loyalty program, with plans to invest in it and grow it further.

Wall Street nears records as tech, energy stocks gain

STEVE ROTHWELL **AP Markets Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks climbed back close to record levels on Thursday as technology, materials and energy companies all notched big gains.

Cisco Systems led the technology sector higher after reporting better-than-expected earnings. Energy stocks rose as the price of oil rebounded following

two days of heavy losses. There were also big gains for online travel companies. Expedia and Orbitz jumped after Expedia said that it was acquiring its rival. TripAdvisor also surged amid speculation that the wave of consolidation in the industry would continue. Stocks have logged big gains in February after a slumping to their worst month in a year in January on worries about the outlook for the global economy. Company earnings are still growing and the U.S. economy appears to be maintaining its recovery as hiring picks up.

"People were getting a little bit overly pessimistic,"

said Karyn Cavanaugh, a senior market strategist at Voya Investment Management. "I still think we're going to see a pretty decent year for the market."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 19.95 points, or 1 percent, to 2,088.48. The index is within two points of its record close of 2,090.57, set Dec. 29.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 110.24 points, or 0.6 percent, to 17,972. The Nasdaq composite climbed 56.43 points, or 1.2 percent, to 4,857.61. Stocks had started the day higher on some encouraging news from Europe, where world leaders clinched a cease-fire deal for Ukraine and as investors remained hopeful that Greece would be able to reach an agreement with its creditors.

emergency meeting Wednesday between Greece's new government and finance ministers from nations that use the euro ended in a stalemate. Greece wants its creditors to ease the terms of a bailout program that has imposed years of austerity on the country.

Investors are hopeful that a deal will be reached before the country's financial S&P 500, surging \$15.13, or 23 percent, to \$82.40, after the announcement of Expedia's bid for Orbitz.

Cisco, a major maker of

Wednesday that exceeded analysts' expectations. The company's outlook for the full year was also better than expected.



Trader Mark Puetzer, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks climbed back close to record levels on Thursday as technology, materials and energy companies all notched big gains. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

rescue program expires at the end of the month. The main Athens stock index jumped 6.7 percent.

In the U.S., TripAdvisor was the biggest gainer in the

computer networking equipment, was another big gainer. The stock jumped \$2.53, or 9.4 percent, to \$29.46 after it reported earnings late The S&P 500 index is up 4.7 percent for the month. If the market closes out the month at this level, it will be the best performance for the index since July 2013.

Total write downs value of Canadian, US oil fields amid loss

PARIS (AP) — French energy producer Total wrote down the value of oil and gas fields in Canada and the United States and said it would slash investment after the collapse in market prices led to a net loss of \$5.66 billion for the fourth quarter.

Total SA said Thursday its earnings were weighed down by \$6.5 billion in charges, mainly against the value of oil sands in Canada and unconventional gas fields in the United States.

Overall, its oil and gas production slid 2 percent to 2.23 million barrels a day in the fourth quarter.

After falling nearly 60 percent from a peak last June, the price of oil bounced back more than 20 percent in recent weeks. On Wednesday, the price of oil fell \$1.18 to \$48.84 a barrel in New York.

Total followed European peers BP and Royal Dutch Shell in announcing sharp spending cuts in response to falling oil prices. Total will lower investments more than 10 percent to between \$23 billion and \$24 billion this year, and will also cut its exploration budget by about 30 percent to \$1.9 billion. It also raised its forecast for operating cost cuts to \$1.2 billion, well above the \$800

million planned previously. Last year, Total and its partners shelved indefinitely the \$11 billion Joslyn north oil sands mine in Alberta, didn't support the investment. The company also took a \$2.1 billion charge to write down the value of its shale gas development in Ohio.

This week, the International Energy Agency forecast a "relatively swift" recov-

ery in oil prices but said it doesn't expect the price of a barrel to come close to returning to the highs of over \$100 seen in recent Canada, saying its costs years. Total Chief Executive Patrick Pouyanne, who took over last October after the death in an aviation accident of former CEO Christophe de Margerie, said in a statement that Total is focused on generating cash flow and reducing its break-even point.

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES A25 FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2015

Nobody Understands Debt



PAUL KRUGMAN © 2015 New York Times

Many economists, including Janet Yellen, view global economic troubles since 2008 largely as a story about "deleveraging" - a simultaneous attempt by debtors almost everywhere to reduce their liabilities. Why is deleveraging a problem? Because my spending is your income, and your spending is my income, so if everyone slashes spending at the same time, incomes go down around the world.

Or as Yellen put it in 2009, "Precautions that may be smart for individuals and firms - and indeed essential to return the economy to a normal state - nevertheless magnify the distress of the economy as a whole."

So how much progress have we made in returning the economy to that "normal state"? None at all. You see, policymakers have been basing their actions on a false view of what debt is all about, and their attempts to reduce the problem have actually made it worse.

First, the facts: Last week, the McKinsey Global Institute issued a report titled "Debt and (Not Much) Deleveraging," which found, basically, that no nation has reduced its ratio of total debt to GDP. Household debt is down in some countries, especially in the United States. But it's up in others, and even where there has been significant private deleveraging, government debt has risen by more than private debt has fallen.

You might think our failure to reduce debt ratios shows that we aren't trying hard enough that families and governments haven't been making a serious effort to tighten their belts, and that what the world needs is, yes, more austerity. But we have, in fact, had unprecedented austerity. As the International Monetary Fund has pointed out, real government spending excluding interest has fallen across wealthy nations - there have been deep cuts by the troubled debtors of Southern Europe, but there nave also been cuts in countries, like Germany and the United States, that can borrow at some of the lowest interest rates in history.

All this austerity has, however, only made things worse - and predictably so, because demands that everyone tighten their belts were based on a misunderstanding of the role debt plays in the economy.

You can see that misunderstanding at work every time someone rails against deficits with slogans like "Stop stealing from our kids." It sounds right, if you don't think about it: Families who run up debts make themselves poorer, so isn't that true when we look at overall national debt?

No, it isn't. An indebted family owes money to other people; the world economy as a whole owes money to itself. And while it's true that countries can borrow from other countries, America has actually been borrowing less from abroad since 2008 than it did before, and Europe is a net lender to the rest of the world.

Because debt is money we owe to ourselves, it does not directly make the economy poorer (and paying it off doesn't make us richer). True, debt can pose a threat to financial stability - but the situation is not improved if efforts to reduce debt end up pushing the economy into deflation and depression.

Which brings us to current events, for there is a direct connection between the overall failure to deleverage and the emerging political crisis in Europe.

European leaders completely bought into the notion that the economic crisis was brought on by too much spending, by nations living beyond their means. The way forward, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany insisted, was a return to frugality. Europe, she declared, should emulate the famously thrifty Swabian housewife.

This was a prescription for slowmotion disaster. European debtors did, in fact, need to tighten their belts - but the austerity they were actually forced to impose was incredibly savage. Meanwhile, Germany and other core economies which needed to spend more, to offset belt-tightening in the periphery - also tried to spend less. The result was to create an environment in which reducing debt ratios was impossible: Real growth slowed to a crawl, inflation fell to almost nothing and outright deflation has taken hold in the worst-hit nations. Suffering voters put up with this policy disaster for a remarkably long time, believing in the promises of the elite that they would soon see their sacrifices rewarded. But as the pain went on and on, with no visible progress, radicalization was inevitable. Anyone surprised by the left's victory in Greece, or the surge of anti-establishment forces in Spain, hasn't been paying attention.

Nobody knows what happens next, although bookmakers are now giving better than even odds that Greece will exit the euro. Maybe the damage would stop there, but I don't believe it - a Greek exit is all too likely to threaten the whole currency project. And if the euro does fail, here's what should be written on its tombstone: "Died of a bad analogy."



The Act of Rigorous Forgiving



DAVID BROOKS © 2015 New York Times

There's something sad in Brian Williams' need to puff up his lraq adventures and something barbaric in the public response.

The sad part is the reminder that no matter how high you go in life and no matter how many accolades you win, it's never enough. The desire for even more admiration races ahead. Career success never really satisfies. Public love always leaves you hungry. Even very famous people can do self-destructive things in an attempt to seem just a little cooler.

The barbaric part is the way we respond to scandal these days. When somebody violates a public trust, we try to purge and ostracize him. A sort of coliseum culture takes over, leaving no place for mercy. By now, the script it familiar: Some famous person does something wrong. The Internet, the most impersonal of mediums, erupts with contempt and mockery. The offender issues a paltry half-apology, which inflames the public more. The pounding cry for resignation builds until capitulation comes. Public passion is spent, and the spotlight moves on.

I've only spoken with Williams a few times, and can't really speak about the man (although I often appear on NBC News' "Meet the Press"), but I do think we'd all be better off if we reacted to these sorts of scandals in a different way. The civic fabric would be stronger if, instead of trying to sever relationships with those who have done wrong, we tried to repair them, if we tried forgiveness instead of exiling.

Forgiveness is often spoken of in sentimental terms - as gushy absolution for everything, regardless of right or wrong. But many writers - ranging from Hannah Arendt and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to modern figures like Jeffrie Murphy and L. Gregory Jones - have tried to think hard about rigorous forgiveness, which balances accountability with compassion.

They've generally described four processes involved in foraiveness:

Pre-emptive Mercy

King argued that forgiveness isn't an act; it's an attitude. We are all sinners. We expect sin, empathize with sin and are slow to think ourselves superior. The forgiving person is strong enough to display anger and resentment toward the person who has wronged her, but she is also strong enough to give away that anger and resentment.

In this view, the forgiving person makes the first move, even before the offender has asked. She resists the natural urge for vengeance. Instead, she creates a welcoming context in which the offender can confess

Judgment

A wrong is an occasion to reevaluate. What is the character of the person in question? Should a period of stupidity eclipse a record of decency? it's also an occasion to investigate each unique circumstance, the nature of each sin that was committed and the implied remedy to that sin. Some sins, like anger and lust, are like wild beasts. They have to be fought through habits of restraint. Some sins like bigotry are like stains. They can be expunged only by apology and cleansing. Some like stealing are like a debt. They can be rectified only by repaying. Some, like adultery, are more like treason than like crime; they can be rectified only by slowly reweaving relationships. Some sins like vanity - Williams' sin - can be treated only by extreme self-abasement.

During the judgment phase hard questions have to be asked so that in forgiving we don't lower our standards. Confession and Penitence

At some point the offender has to get out in front of the process, being more self-critical than anyone else around him. He has to probe down to the root of his error, offer a confession more complete than expected. He has to put public reputation and career on the back burner and come up with a course that will move him toward his own emotional and spiritual recovery, to become strongest in the weakest places.

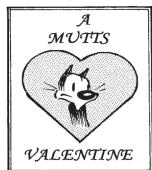
Reconciliation and Re-trust After judgments have been made and penitence performed, both the offender and offended bend toward each other. As King said, trust doesn't have to be immediate, but the wrong act is no longer a barrier to a relationship. The offender endures his season of shame and is better for it. The offended are free from mean emotions like vengeance and are uplifted when they offer kindness. The social fabric is repaired. Community solidarity is strengthened by the reunion.

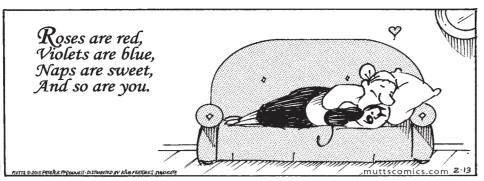
I guess I think Brian Williams shouldn't have to resign, for the reason that David Carr emphasized in The Times: Williams' transgressions were not part of his primary job responsibilities. And because I think good people are stronger when given second chances.

But the larger question is how we build community in the face of scandal. Do we exile the offender or heal the relationship? Would you rather become the sort of person who excludes, or one who offers tough but healing love?

nuba 100)

Mutts





6 Chix



Blondie







Mother Goose & Grimm







Baby Blues













Conceptis Sudoku

		2			8		
		9	6	1	7		
	7					9	
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	2		3	5		4	
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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

er	5	9	8	3	6	2	7	1	4
มรพ	2	4	3	7	1	9	5	6	8
zzle	7	6	1	8	4	5	2	9	3
nd s	8	7	6	4	2	3	9	5	1
rday'	4	2	5	1	9	7	3	8	6
Yesterday's puzzle answer	3	1	9	5	8	6	4	7	2
	9	5	4	6	3	1	8	2	7
	6	3	7	2	5	8	1	4	9
	1	8	2	9	7	4	6	3	5

ACROSS 1 Read between

- 6 Pretense; farce
- 10 Groupies 14 Come up 15 Conceal
- 16 __ house; realtor's event 17 Explorer __ de
- León 18 "__ Wonderful Life"
- 19 Uncommon 20 Nikes or
- Reeboks 22 Veer 24 In the __;
- healthy 25 Schemer 26 Go skyward
- 29 Name on a check 30 "! Humbug!"
- 31 Comedian and actor George 33 Not taut
- 37 Dishonest one 39 _ up; got some sense 41 Wild feline 42 Firstborn of two

3 Four and five

4 Get away

5 Looking for

7 Smacks

10 Predict

12 Boldness

13 Derisive smile

21 Bestow, as a

25 Loses color

26 Up to the task

27 Spinnaker or jib

28 African nation

32 Invoices

34 Aspirations

29 Mexican dollars

35 Outer garment

36 Patella's place

38 Plant new trees

in the woods

40 Evening coffee,

perhaps

8 Commercials

9 Ridiculously

few in number

- 44 Suffers defeat 46 Fannie home loan type 47 Stable newborns
- 49 Pure 51 Eight-limbed sea creature
- 54 Bazaar 55 Red wine 56 Lower class men?
- 60 "Old King _ was a merr 61 Trick; scam 63 Leg bone 64 _ up; spends 65 A single time
- 66 Blessed birth of a child 67 Take a break 68 Piece of tall marsh grass
- 69 Writing tables DOWN 1 Drinks like Fido

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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43 Lasso 45 Moved slightly

48 Book writer

50 Show up 51 Take place 52 Near 53 "Andersen's Fairy __

57 Burrows and Vigoda 58 Tattletale 59 Singer and pianist

54 Repaired

56 Marathon

Domino 62 Afternoon hour



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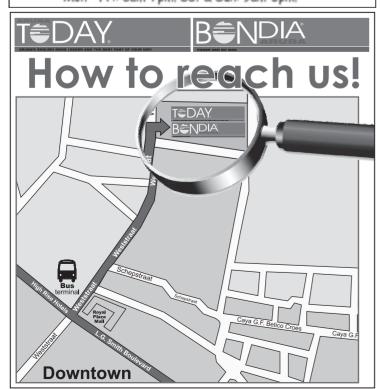


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Who pays? Who cuts emissions? 5 issues for UN climate deal

KARL RITTER Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — World governments are hoping that this year will mark a breakthrough in the slowpaced U.N. climate talks. In Geneva this week, ne-

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In this Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008 file photo, charcoal kilns are seen in Tailandia, state of Para, Brazil. **Associated Press**

gotiators from more than 190 countries are working on a draft of a deal that's supposed to be adopted in Paris in December. At this point it's a wish list reflecting the diverging preferences of rich countries like the U.S. and Japan, major developing economies such as China and India, oil producers in the Middle East and Pacific islands at risk of being submerged by rising seas. But governments must try to find common ground on a range of thorny issues over the next 10 months. Here's a look at the most important ones:

WHO DOES WHAT?

Unless the world can agree on a formula for how to divide the cuts in heat-trapping carbon emissions that scientists say is required to avoid dangerous levels of warming, Paris will be deemed another failure, just like an acrimonious 2009 climate

summit in Copenhagen. Under the previous U.N. climate deal, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, only rich countries were required to limit their emissions from mostly using coal, oil and gas. Now, with the majority of emissions coming from developing countries, everyone is supposed to chip in. But how?

While developed countries reject staying the only ones required to cut emissions, developing countries are concerned that a new system would enable rich countries to hand over the responsibility for tackling global warming.

BINDING OR NOT

If delegates emerge with a deal in Paris, what are they going to call it? A "protocol," a "legal instrument" or an "agreed outcome with legal force?" Those who, like the European Union, expect a legally binding protocol with emissions targets for all countries are likely be disappointed. The U.S. doesn't want that, knowing it most likely couldn't get approval by Congress.

Finding a legal form acceptable to everyone is a major challenge. One possibility is requiring each country to set a target but without a penalty for miss-

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Some critics of the U.N. talks describe them as a massive wealth transfer scheme. That ignores the fact that most developing countries need money and technology to grow their economies in a cleaner way than today's rich countries did for decades before the impact of carbon pollution was understood. Also, the world's poor are the most vulnerable to climate change and did the least to create the problem.

But the good of the planet does not always take center stage in negotiations. Rich, poor and middle-income countries all want the deal to reflect their national economic priorities.

Right now the trickiest money issue is how to raise the \$100 billion in annual climate aid that rich countries promised to give poor nations by 2020.

MARKETS

Countries still haven't decided whether the new agreement should include market mechanisms that would allow countries and companies to offset their own emissions by paying for reductions elsewhere. Europeans and others see carbon markets as essential to fighting climate change. But some anticapitalist countries led by Bolivia are opposed to the idea, warning that markets will turn nature itself into a commodity.

LONG-TERM GOAL

To avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change, countries have already agreed that global temperatures should not rise more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 F), compared to pre-industrial times. But many want the Paris deal to state specifically what that means in terms of emissions cuts. Some say the agreement should incorporate the U.N. climate science panel's finding that — to have a two-thirds chance of staying below 2 degrees C — the world must cut emissions by some 40 to 70 percent by 2050. Others want to go further, calling for net zero emissions by mid-century, meaning no more emissions than the world's forests can absorb.

CBS' Bob Simon remembered as master storyteller

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bob Simon was kidnapped in Iraq, beaten in Belfast and held at gunpoint in Romania during a nearly 50-year career at CBS News. His bravery made the mundane way he died — in the back seat of a car on Manhattan's West Side Highway Wednesday night — seem all the more tragic.

Simon's work outlives him, and not just on reputation. A story he was working on with his producer, daughter Tanya Simon, about searching for an Ebola cure, is scheduled to air on "60 Minutes" this weekend. The newsmagazine will have a full tribute to Simon on Feb. 22. He died at age 73.

Simon was a foreign correspondent in the heyday of CBS News and broadcast news in general. He was one of the last to leave Vietnam following the fall of Saigon in 1973, and reported on conflicts in Northern Ireland, Nigeria, Portugal, Cyprus, Argentina, India, Romania, Bosnia and, most indelibly, the Middle East.

He often said he was better known in Israel when he was stationed there than he was in the U.S., something he may have wished was untrue. A story in the late 1980s that showed Israeli soldiers beating Palestinian boys during the Intifada earned him so many threats that he needed to hire security for his home.

During the first Gulf War in 1991, he was taken by Iraqi forces near the Kuwait-Saudi border. He and three colleagues were held and beaten severely for six weeks, after which he said he hoped his interrogators "die soon and painfully."

While he was held, one of his New York colleagues prepared an obituary reel—kind of a reverse psychology, hoping it would never be used. Following his release and return to New York, it was handed to him. It took



In this April 7, 2014 file photo, Bob Simon of "60 Minutes," attends the New York premiere of "The Railway Man" in New York.

Associated Press

Simon months to watch.
"When you look at your obit,
it sort of reminds you how
close you came to being
dead," he said.

Jeffrey Fager, then a young producer at CBS News and now executive producer of "60 Minutes," said he was always eager to hear Simon's take on a story, even if many others covered it. Simon would usually notice something others hadn't, he said. Simon had the hardware, including some 27 Emmy Awards. His impact may be better felt in the words of younger correspondents who followed his path. Anderson Cooper nearly broke down speaking about his death on CNN Wednesday night, saying he felt intimidated walking the same hallways with Simon.

"When I try to write really well, I listen for Bob's voice," said NBC News correspondent Richard Engel, in an email from Iraq Thursday. "Sometimes I can just hear it—the ups and downs, the simple phrase to button up a complex thought—but then when I think I've got it, it's gone too quickly, just like Bob.

"He was a brilliant writer and journalist who had the amazing ability to be brave, intelligent and witty all at the same time and make it look effortless," Engel said. "He was the gold standard. Without him, our profession is diminished."

Rosie O'Donnell says goodbye to 'The View' for second time

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rosie O'Donnell has ended her second stint on "The View," her goodbye about as short as her tenure.

Holding her toddler daughter, O'Donnell made her exit Thursday in a segment that lasted barely 40 seconds. She thanked the show's creator, Barbara Walters, for having her on twice. Her first tenure lasted a stormy eight months that ended in 2007.

She announced last weekend she was leaving. O'Donnell, who is going through a divorce and has had a heart attack, said she needed to reduce the stress in her life.

"We've had fun and I hope we'll have more," she said. "I'll come back and do an occasional crafting segment because I have a hot glue gun and will travel." On her last show she scold-

On her last show she scolded Kanye West for his post-Grammy Awards rant at Beck, and her comment in



In this image released by ABC, co-hosts Nicolle Wallace, left, Rosie O'Donnell, holding daughter Dakota, center and Rosie Perez appear on the set of "The View," on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015 in New York.

Associated Press

a segment about a Montana legislator trying to ban too-tight clothing had to be bleeped out.

Her outsized personality brought the usual tabloid rumors of backstage strife at the daytime talk show. O'Donnell had returned to "The View" in September, part of a revamp aimed at stopping a ratings slide, joining Whoopi Goldberg, Rosie Perez and Nicolle Wallace on the panel.

"The change has not, given their ratings performance, been successful in that regard," said Bill Carroll, an analyst of the syndication market for Katz Media.

The ABC show has averaged 2.91 million viewers per day, down from 3.04 million last season, the Nielsen company said. The CBS knockoff "The Talk," meanwhile, in nipping at its heels with an average of 2.69 million viewers.

'Elementary' star Lucy Liu goes behind the camera



In this Oct. 5, 2013 file photo, actress Lucy Liu attends a screening of "Elementary" at PaleyFest: Made In NY in New York.

Associated Press

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Elementary" star Lucy Liu had to be pushy to get a chance to turn director on the CBS crime drama.

"It's harder for women in general. You have to ask and ask and ask. You have to break the door down. ... and come in with a real belief in what you're doing," she said.

Liu directed Thursday's episode of the series in which she plays Dr. Joan Watson opposite Jonny Lee Miller's Sherlock Holmes. The job required juggling acting with the demands of going behind the camera and

the pace of TV production, she said.

"Television is a machine. You jump on to this conveyer belt that is going at a very quick speed, and if you can't keep up you fall off and fall hard," said Liu, who directed her first episode of "Elementary" last

She avoided any tumbles, she said, and is eager to repeat the experience.

Liu, whose on-screen credits include "Ally McBeal" and the films "Charlie's Angels" and "Kill Bill," said she remains enthusiastic about acting but appreciates the growth that directing and its broader view of a project can bring. "After having directed, you really don't see things the same way anymore. You approach things with a different eye, as a different person, ultimately," Liu said.



Kenny G wants in on traditional jazz radio, Hollywood

RYAN PEARSON AP Entertainment Writer MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Kenny G still has something to prove.

The biggest-selling instrumental artist of the modern era is recognized worldwide — particularly in China — for his smooth saxophone skills and trademark mop of curly hair. Sure, he's long been a punch line for "South Park" and musical purists, but generally laughs off criticism with his own self-deprecating humor.

Now the 58-year-old artist born Kenneth Gorelick hungers for a certain cachet beyond platinum plaques. He'd like tunes from his latest album, "Brazilian Nights," mixed in on traditional jazz radio between the likes of Stan Getz and Miles Davis.

"If they don't play this, it's only because they must not like me and what they think I stand for," Kenny G



In this Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015 file photo, Kenny G arrives at the 2015 Clive Davis Pre-Grammy Gala at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press In this Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015 file photo, Kenny G arrives at the 2015 Clive Davis Pre-Grammy Gala at the **Associated Press** Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

said in an interview, referring to station programmers. "This is traditional jazz. It's played very authentic and I did my homework. If they listen and go 'ugh' then they're not listening to it. They're just looking at my

face and going 'ugh.'" The album released last month features covers of bossa nova standards like "Corcovado" and "Girl From Ipanema," along with several of Kenny G's own compositions, including "Bossa Real."

The smooth jazz saxophonist recorded in a newly built studio at his gated seaview compound in Malibu. He counts Hollywood titans as his neighbors and purchased special equipment so that he can watch firstrun movies at his home theater.

Film is a passion. And his continuing inability break into composing for movies is a "pet peeve," he said.

"There's a door that says, 'You can do movie scores.' I've gone up to the door and I've knocked. Nobody answers," he said. "Sometimes it cracks open and I go, 'Hey do you remember me?' And they go, 'Yeah, yeah, we'll work with you.' Then they slam the door." He said he's hoping a highprofile movie director will eventually consider his work, even ironically.

"You know what's going to happen? Quentin Tar-

antino is going to call me," Kenny G said, smiling. "Because I'm going to be so quirky for what he's doing. He'll be doing a movie and he's going to go, 'Oh yeah, one of his songs would sound really out of place there. That's perfect.'"

For now, he's trying to gather the courage to approach director Ron Howard, having already written three melodies he thinks would be perfect for films, one in particular for a Howard movie.

"These three melodies, if you hear them, and if they were the theme from the movie ... you would go, 'OK, those have to be nominated for Academy Awards,'" Kenny G said. "I just hope I don't do them all in the same year."

He pauses, considering, and smiles.

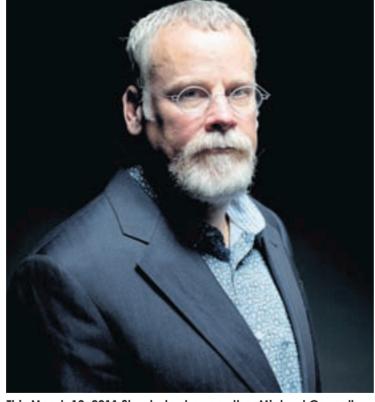
"Maybe I should do them all in the same year. Then you've got a better chance."

After years in limbo, 'Bosch' comes to life as Amazon series

DERRIK J. LANG AP Entertainment Writer LOS ANGELES (AP) — When the first season of "Bosch" debuts Friday on Amazon, it will be an achievement 20 years in the making for Michael Connelly, the author of the popular crime novel series centering on Los Angeles Police Detective Harry Bosch. For the online retailer that first ventured into original programming five years ago, it will serve as the rising content provider's latest test.

"It's certainly been long awaited by the Bosch fans," said Titus Welliver, the veteran actor of "Lost" and "The Good Wife" fame who portrays the rulebreaking sleuth. "There's a tremendous amount of excitement and support coming from them. I feel strongly about what we've accomplished, as far as satiating the appetite of the fans. They're going to be happy."

Connelly originally sold the rights to his gritty novels back in 1995 to Paramount. A proposed series of films languished in de-



This March 10, 2011 file photo shows author Michael Connelly during a press event for the film, "The Lincoln Lawyer," in **Associated Press** Beverly Hills, Calif.

velopment, and they were "The world had changed," never made. While the character first introduced in 1992's "The Black Echo" lived on in print, Connelly wasn't able to reclaim the screen rights to Bosch until 2010. When he did, a Bosch movie no longer seemed apropos.

acknowledged Connelly. "We're now in a golden age of this kind of serialized storytelling. It worked well with what I had. I was sitting there with 15 books, and a two-hour movie wasn't going to cut it. I didn't even consider going back to

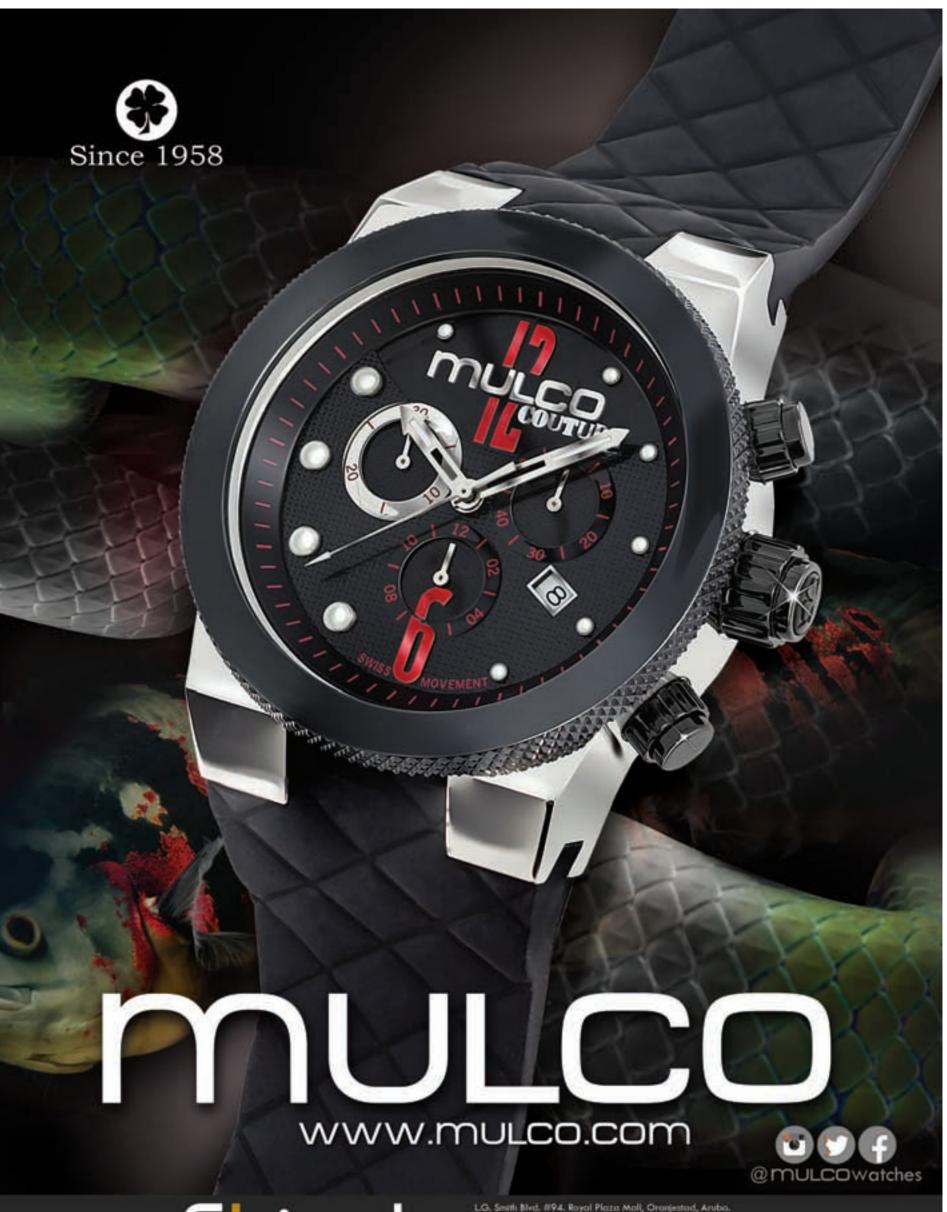
Hollywood to get a movie going again. I thought we needed 50 or 60 hours to do this character justice." Amazon, the world's largest book seller, swooped in when Connelly was shopping a potential TV series. He signed on as an executive producer and enlisted Eric Overmyer, who previously worked on "The Wire," to bring Bosch to life, a daunting task considering Bosch's history now spans 17 novels. (The latest one, "The Burning Room," was released last year.)

The show — Amazon's first drama — is arriving after the studio has agined acclaim for the comedies "Alpha House," ''Mozart in the Jungle" and "Transparent," which was recently honored with a Directors Guild Award and a pair of Golden Globes. However, "Bosch" has a more conventional approach than those shows — a notion that doesn't bother Connelly.

"My goal was to be loyal to the character and to be loyal to the Los Angeles of the books," said Connelly.

"It is a familiar archetype. There's no doubt about it, but there are unique aspects. From the point of view of Amazon, they call themselves the 'everything' store, so when it comes to Amazon programming, they want to have something for everyone."

For the most part, "Bosch" stays true to Connelly's written words, except Welliver's Bosch is younger, a veteran of the first Iraq War instead of the Vietnam War. Also, the first season's ongoing mystery and plots are drawn from the novels "The Concrete Blonde," "City of Bones" and "Echo Park," which aren't chronologically connected throughout the book series. With so much more source material left on his shelves, Connelly said the TV version of "Bosch" could run for several years if Amazon Prime subscribers respond well to the live-action interpretation of the dogged detective and the mysteries he solves throughout a divided Los Angeles. Welliver is game.



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